Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 067520
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:EUR:RPM:DJMCCONNELL
APPROVED BY:EUR:JWSHINN
EUR:RPM:LBRECKON
S/S-O:SRPVALERGA
EUR:RPM:SJLEDOGAR
----------002568 160634Z /11
O 160250Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 067520

NODIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BRUSSELS DATED MARCH 14,
1978 SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN, USNATO IS REPEATED
TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 05041

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT THINKING ON THE ENHANCED
RADIATION WEAPON

REF: BRUSSELS 3462

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING
FOREIGN MINISTER ON DEFENSE POLICY GAVE US A RUNDOWN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 067520

ON MARCH 14 ON HOW BELGIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT REPEAT MIGHT
HANDLE THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE OF THE ER/RB
WEAPON.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BELIEVES THAT IF BELGIUM IS PUSHED
INTO MAKING A DECISION IN THE NEAR FUTURE (I.E. BY THE
TIME OF THE NATO MEENG IN WASHINGTON) THE BELGIAN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE NEGATIVE. ACCORDING TO THEIR ANALYSIS, NOT ENOUGH TIME HAS YET ELAPSED TO PERMIT THE ER/RB QUESTION TO DROP FROM PUBLIC ATTENTION. WE WERE FURTHER TOLD THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET IS DELIBERATELY STAYING EWAY FROM PARLIAMENT SO THAT HE CANNOT BE QUESTIONED ON THE ISSUE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER S MONET'S CLOSEST PEPSONAL ADVISORS ON DEFENSE ISSUES HAVE WARNED HIM THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY SUICIDE FOR HIM TO COME OUT FOR THE ER/RB WEAPON IN LIGHT OF THE PRESENT PUBLIC POSITION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY TO WHICH HE BELONGS ON THE QUESTION (BRUSSELS 2363).

4. SIMONET, THUS, MAY PROPOSE TURNING AROUND THE U.S. POSITION SET FORTH IN THE SECRETARY'S LETTER ON THE SSBDECT (STATE 44903), I.E., HE MAY SUGGEST (AND WE STRESS THAT NO DECISIONS IN THIS REGARD HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN) THAT BELGIUM TAKE EN INITIAL,TIME-LIMITED POSITION AGAINST THE ER/RB WEAPON. ACCORDING TO THIS SCENARIO, BELGIUM WOULD SAY THAT MANUFACTURE OF THE ER/RB WEAPON IS STRICTLY A MATTER FOR THE USG ALONE. DEPLOYMENT IS ANOTHER MATTER, WHICH DOES CONCERN BELGIUM, AND BELGIUM WOULD REFUSE PERMISSION FOR SUCH A DEPLOYMENT ON BELGIAN TERRITORY FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. DURING THIS TWO YEAR PERIOD, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (AND LOCAL

SECRET

SECRET

PUBLIC OPINION) COULD OBSERVE WHETHER THE SOVIETS WE
E
SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN EVEN LIMITED ARMS CONTROL. IF NO PROORESS WERE MADE WITHIN THE TWO YEAR PERIOD, BELGIUM MIGHT USE SUCH LACK OF PROGRESS AS A REASON TO PERMIT DEPLOYMENT OF THE ER/RB WEAPON.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET'S ADVISORS BELIEVE THIS SCENARIO WOULD PROTECT HIM FROM E SERIOUS SPLIT WITH THE BULK OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY (WHICH MIGHT BE POLITICALLY FATAL TO HIM) AND WOULD FURTHER BE CONSISTENT WITH TRADITIONAL BELGIAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO FOSTER DISARMA-MENT AND ENCOURAGE DETENTE. IT COULD ALSO (EVENTUALLY) PERMIT BELGIUM TO JOIN THE U.S. AND WEST GERMANY IN PROVIDINO FOR A BETTER DEFENSE AGAINST SOVIET ARMOR.

6. OUR SOURCE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE BELGIANS HAVE NOT BEEN CONVINCED THAT A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE ER/RB WEAPON AND THE SS-20 IS REALISTIC. THEY HAVE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY PUBLICLY REJECTED SUCH A LINKAGE AND THEY ARE SEARCHING, HE SAID, FOR A POLITICALLY VIABLE WAY TO PUT THE ONUS FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ER/RB

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

WEAPON ON THE SOVIETS. CHAMBERS UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ALLIANCE, CAT-B, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE067520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:RPM:DJMCCONNELL
Enclosure: REPEATING 78 BRUSSELS 5041
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780003-0498
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780359/aaaabxua.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56dca1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 3462
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3302975
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT THINKING ON THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON
TAGS: MNUC, BE, US, NATO, NPG
To: USNATO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56dca1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014